

Spies feared behind Czech crisis

By ERIC DOWNTON
ANKARA, Thursday.
INFORMATION from a Russian spy ring inside NATO was probably a factor in Moscow's timing of the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

This emerged from the interrogation of Nahit Imre, 50, the Turk accused of spying for Russia while holding the post of Chief Financial Comptroller at NATO headquarters in Brussels.

There is worried speculation in NATO about the extent to which the organisation has been

penetrated by Russian intelligence. It is believed that the Kremlin was able accurately to assess NATO's position during the weeks before the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

Taken by surprise

Officials of NATO admit that although the Western Powers had extensive evidence of Russia's military build-up, the timing of Moscow's decision to move against Czechoslovakia took them by surprise.

A report published today by the usually well-informed Turkish magazine *Outlook* quotes "reliable

Turkish sources" as saying that the existence of a Russian spy ring inside NATO is suspected.

Imre is alleged to have been caught photographing documents in his Brussels office on Sept. 12. Nine days later he was brought to Ankara under arrest.

According to *Outlook*, he was personal financial adviser to the NATO Secretary-General Signor Brosia. His responsibilities were "extremely important."

He is said to have visited Turkey once during the month preceding his arrest. In the same period he also visited Yugoslavia's Bulgarian border region.